

At page 38, line 11, replace "207.99.106.62" with --10.0.0.1--.

In the claims:

In all of the claims, delete all of the reference numbers enclosed in square brackets.

16. (amended) A method for interacting with an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

(a) communicating [[1103, 1104]] from a first participant to the offer matching system a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) if the first description does not disclose the first identifier, then communicating [[1106, 1107]] the first identifier [[1153]] from the offer matching system to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) communicating [[1201, 1202]] from a second participant to the offer matching system a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) the offer matching system's executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) if a first disclosee, the first disclosee not being the same as the first participant, does not already possess information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and that a first related person satisfies a first condition selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer,

then, after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer, communicating [[1108, 1109]] the first identifier [[1154]] from the first participant to the first disclosee in a manner which discloses to the first disclosee that the first related person satisfies the first condition;

(g) after the first disclosee possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and that the first related person satisfies the first condition, communicating [[1301, 1302]] from the first disclosee to the offer matching system a first request [[1351]] for information, wherein the first request includes the first identifier;

(h) selecting [[1110]] a third offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: [] the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and [] the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth] fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer;

(i) attempting to avoid public disclosure of information that is reasonably likely to disclose that the first related person satisfies the first condition; and

(j) in response to the first request, and without the offer matching system's determining that the first request was made by a person entitled to receive confidential information concerning the third offer, communicating [[1304, 1305]] from the offer matching system to the first disclosee a first data item concerning the third offer [[1351]], whereby the first disclosee, which already possesses information which discloses that the first related person satisfies the first condition, gains possession of information which discloses that the first data item concerns the third offer which satisfies the second condition.

26. (amended) A method for interacting with an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

(a) communicating [[1103, 11]] from a first participant to the offer matching system a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) if the first description does not disclose the first identifier, then communicating [[1106, 1107]] the first identifier [[1153]] from the offer matching system to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) communicating [[1201, 1202]] from a second participant to the offer matching system a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) the offer matching system's executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) if a first disclosee, the first disclosee not being the same as the first participant, does not already possess information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and that a first related person satisfies a first condition selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer,

then, after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer, communicating [[1108, 1109]] the first identifier [[1154]] from the first participant to the first disclosee in a manner which discloses to the first disclosee that the first related person satisfies the first condition;

(g) communicating [[1401, 1402]] from the offer matching system to the first information publisher information concerning the first offer that includes the first identifier [[1451]];

(h) communicating [[1403, 1404]] from the offer matching system to the first information publisher information concerning a third offer [[1452]];

(i) after the first disclosee possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and that the first related person satisfies the first condition, communicating [[1501, 1502]] from the first disclosee to the first information publisher a first request [[1551]] for information, wherein the first request includes the first identifier;

(j) selecting [[1410]] a third offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth] fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer;

(k) attempting to avoid public disclosure of information that is reasonably likely to disclose that the first related person satisfies the first condition; and

(l) in response to the first request, and without the first information publisher's determining that the first request was made by a person entitled to receive confidential information concerning the first offer, communicating [[1504, 1505]] from the first information publisher to the first disclosee a first data item concerning the third offer [[1552]], whereby the first disclosee, which already possesses information which discloses that the first related person satisfies the first condition, gains possession of information which discloses that the first data item concerns the third offer which satisfies the second condition.

37. (amended) A method for interacting with an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

(a) communicating [[1103, 1104]] from a first participant to the offer matching system a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) if the first description does not disclose the first identifier, then communicating [[1106, 1107]] the first identifier [[1153]] from the offer matching system to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) communicating [[1201, 1202]] from a second participant to the offer matching system a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) the offer matching system's executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer, communicating [[1206, 1207]] from the first participant to the offer matching system a first request for information [[1253]], wherein the first request includes the first identifier;

(g) selecting [[1110]] a third offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth] fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer;

(h) in response to the first request, and without the offer matching system's determining that the first participant is entitled to receive confidential information concerning the third offer, communicating [[1209, 1210]] from the offer matching system to the first participant a first data item [[1254]] concerning the third offer.

56. (amended) A method for operating an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

- (a) receiving [[1104]] from a first participant a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;
- (b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) if the first description did not disclose the first identifier, sending [[1106]] the first identifier [[1153]] to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) receiving [[1202]] from a second participant a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) receiving [[1302]] from a first disclosee a first request [[1351]] for information, the first request includes the first identifier, wherein

the first disclosee is not the same as the first participant and

the first disclosee possesses information which discloses that a first related person satisfies a first condition, wherein the first condition is selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer[,] ;

(g) in response to the first request, and without the offer matching system's determining that the first request is from a person entitled to receive confidential information concerning the first offer, sending [[1304]] to the first disclosee a first data item [[1352]], wherein:

the first data item concerns the first offer, and

before receiving the first data item, the first disclosee does not possess information which discloses that the first data item concerns the first offer,

whereby the first disclosee, which already possesses information which discloses that the first related person satisfies the first condition, gains possession of information which discloses that the first data item concerns the first offer.

65. (amended) A method for operating an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

(a) receiving [[1104]] from a first participant a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) if the first description [[1152]] did not disclose the first identifier, sending [[1106]] the first identifier [[1153]] to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) receiving [[1202]] from a second participant a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) the offer matching system's executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) receiving [[1302]] from a first disclosee a first request [[1351]] for information, the first request includes the first identifier, wherein

the first disclosee is not the same as the first participant and

the first disclosee possesses information which discloses that a first related person satisfies a first condition, wherein the first condition is selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer[.];

(g) selecting [[1110]] a third offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a single side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth] fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer; and

(h) in response to the first request, and without the offer matching system's determining that the first request is from a person entitled to receive confidential information concerning the third offer, sending [[1304]] to the first discloser a first data item [[1352]] concerning the third offer, whereby the first discloser, which already possesses information which discloses that the first related person satisfies the first condition, gains possession of information which discloses that the first data item concerns the third offer which satisfies the second condition.

82. (amended) A method for operating an information publishing system comprising the following steps:

(a) receiving [[1402]] from an offer matching system a description [[1451]] of a first offer, wherein:

the first description includes a first identifier associated with the first offer,

the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer[.];

(b) receiving [[1404]] from an offer matching system a description [[1452]] of a second offer;

(c) receiving [[1502]] a first request [[1551]] for information, the first request includes the first identifier, from a first disclosee, wherein

the first disclosee did not previously send a description of the first offer to the offer matching system and

the first disclosee possesses information which discloses that a first related person satisfies a first condition, wherein the first condition is selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer[.];

(d) determining [[1511]] that the second offer satisfies a second condition that comprises a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the second offer,

that both the first offer and the second offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the second offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the second offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the second offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the second offer executed in whole or in part against a third offer, wherein the third offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the second offer executed in whole or in part against a fourth offer, wherein the fourth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the fourth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer;

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(e) in response to the first request, and without the information publishing system's determining that the first request is from a person entitled to receive confidential information concerning the second offer, sending [[1504]] to the first disclosee a first data item [[1552]] concerning the second offer, whereby the first disclosee, which already possesses information which discloses that the first related person satisfies the first condition, gains possession of information which discloses that the first data item concerns the second offer which satisfies the second condition.

101. (amended) A method for interacting with an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

(a) communicating [[1103, 1104]] from a first participant to the offer matching system a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

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(c) if the first description does not disclose the first identifier, then communicating [[1106, 1107]] the first identifier [[1153]] from the offer matching system to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) communicating [[1201, 1202]] from a second participant to the offer matching system a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) the offer matching system's executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

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(f) if a first disclosee does not already possess information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and that a first related person satisfies a first condition selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer[.] ;

then, after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer, communicating [[1108, 1109]] the first identifier [[1154]] from the first participant to the first disclosee in a manner which discloses to the first disclosee that the first related person satisfies the first condition;

(g) attempting to avoid public disclosure of information that is reasonably likely to disclose that the first related person satisfies the first condition; [and]

(h) the offer matching system's publishing [[1605]] a first data packet [[1652]] that comprises the first identifier and a first data item, wherein:

the first data item concerns the first offer, and

the first data packet is published in a manner that permits the first disclosee to receive it regardless of whether the first disclosee has a right to receive confidential information concerning the first offer;

(i) the offer matching system's publishing [[1805]] a first collection of information [[1852]], wherein the first collection comprises information which discloses that a second data item concerns a third offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth]

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fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer,

wherein the first collection is published in a manner that permits the first disclosee to receive the first collection regardless of whether the first disclosee has a right to receive confidential information concerning the third offer;

(j) the first disclosee's receiving [[1606]] the first data packet [[1652]];

(k) the first disclosee's receiving [[1806]] the first collection [[1852]];

(l) the first disclosee's detecting [[1807]] that the second data item concerns an offer that satisfies the second condition.

109. (amended) A method for interacting with an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

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(a) communicating [[1103, 1104]] from a first participant to the offer matching system a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) if the first description does not disclose the first identifier, then communicating [[1106, 1107]] the first identifier [[1153]] from the offer matching system to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) communicating [[1201, 1202]] from a second participant to the offer matching system a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) the offer matching system's executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) if a first disclosee does not already possess information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and that a first related person satisfies a first condition selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer,

then, after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer, communicating [[1108, 1109]] the first identifier [[1154]] from the first participant to the first disclosee in a manner which discloses to the first disclosee that the first related person satisfies the first condition;

(g) attempting to avoid public disclosure of information that is reasonably likely to disclose that the first related person satisfies the first condition; [and]

(h) communicating [[1401, 1402]] from the offer matching system to a first information publisher a first data packet [[1451]] that comprises the first identifier and a first data item, the first data item concerning the first offer;

(i) the first information publisher's publishing [[1705]] a second data packet [[1752]] comprising the first identifier and a second data item, wherein:

the second data item concerns the first offer, and

the second data packet is published in a manner that permits the first disclosee to receive it regardless of whether the first disclosee has a right to receive confidential information concerning the first offer;

(j) communicating [[1403, 1404]] from the offer matching system to the first information publisher a first collection [[1452]] of information, wherein the first collection comprises information which discloses that a second data item concerns a third offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth] fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer;

118 (k) the first information publisher's publishing [[1905]] a second collection [[1952]] of information, wherein the second collection comprises information which discloses that a third data item concerns an offer that satisfies the second condition, wherein

the third data item concerns the third offer, and

the second collection is published in a manner that permits the first disclosee to receive it regardless of whether the first disclosee has a right to receive confidential information concerning the third offer;

(l) the first disclosee's receiving [[1706]] the second data packet [[1752]];

(m) the first disclosee's receiving [[1906]] the second collection [[1952]];

(n) the first disclosee's detecting [[1907]] that the third data item concerns an offer that satisfies the second condition.

119 138. (amended) A method for processing offers in an offer matching system comprising the steps of:

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(a) receiving from a first person a first description of a first offer, the first description comprising

a first data item that identifies a future time, wherein:

the first data item permits specifying the future time in increments at least as small as one minute,

the future time is at least two hours in the future, and

the future time is not at or near a time when

the offer matching system is scheduled to commence offer matching,

the offer matching system is scheduled to suspend offer matching,

the offer matching system is scheduled both to commence and to suspend offer matching, or

the offer matching system is scheduled to conduct a single call auction;

a second data item that indicates a first side for the first offer and

a third data item that identifies a first traded item;

(b) receiving from a second person a second description of a second offer wherein the second offer is for the first side and the first traded item;

(c) receiving from a third person a third description of a third offer wherein the [second] third offer is for the first traded item but is not for the first side;

(d) until the offer matching system determines that the future time has occurred, refusing to execute the first offer against any other offer;

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(e) after receiving the first description but before the offer matching system determines that the future time has occurred, executing the second offer at least in part against the third offer, wherein, if the offer matching system had already determined that the future time had occurred, the second offer would have had a lower execution priority than the first offer and the offer matching system would not have executed the second offer even in part against the third offer; and

(f) after the offer matching system determines that the future time has occurred, attempting at least one time to execute the first offer against at least one other offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system and, if it can be so executed, so executing it.

139. (amended) The method of claim [1] 138 wherein the first data item permits specifying the future time in increments at least as small as one second.

140. (amended) The method of claim [1] 138 or claim [2] 139 wherein the future time is at least twelve hours in the future.

142. (amended) A method for operating an offer matching system comprising the following steps:

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(a) storing [[1112]] in the offer matching system a first association among a first participant and a first monitor;

(b) receiving [[1104]] a first description [[1152]] for a first offer, the first offer comprising a first data item that indicates whether the first offer is an offer to buy or an offer to sell;

- 17.10
- (c) determining that the first description is from the first participant;
 - (d) receiving from a second participant a second description for a second offer, the second offer comprising a second data item, wherein either:
 - the first data item indicates that the first offer is an offer to buy and the second data item indicates that the second offer is an offer to sell or
 - the first data item indicates that the first offer is an offer to sell and the second data item indicates that the second offer is an offer to buy;
 - (e) receiving [a request] a message that approves the first offer;
 - (f) determining that the [request] message is from the first monitor;
 - (g) before step (f), refusing to execute the first offer against any other offer;
 - (h) after step (f), executing the first offer at least in part against the second offer.
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159. (amended) A method for charging and paying fees in connection with the operation of an offer matching system that includes the following steps:

- 17.11
- (a) receiving descriptions for a plurality of offers,
 - (b) executing a first offer from a first participant against a second offer from a second participant for a first traded quantity in accordance with a set of rules for operating the offer matching system, thereby generating a first trade;
 - (c) if the first traded quantity includes at least one round lot and the offer matching system has not previously executed the first offer against another offer for a traded quantity that

included at least one round lot, then charging the first participant a fee comprising a first fixed amount;

(d) if the first traded quantity includes at least one round lot and the offer matching system has not previously executed the second offer against another offer for a traded quantity that included at least one round lot, then charging the second participant a fee comprising [a] the first fixed amount;

(e) if the first traded quantity includes an odd lot portion and the offer matching system has not previously executed the first offer against another offer for a traded quantity that included an odd lot portion, then charging the first participant a fee comprising a second fixed amount;

(f) if the first traded quantity includes an odd lot portion and the offer matching system has not previously executed the second offer against another offer for a traded quantity that included an odd lot portion, then charging the second participant a fee comprising [a] the second fixed amount;

(g) paying a third fixed amount, wherein the third fixed amount is at least as great as a total fee charged by a first clearing organization to clear and settle the first trade.

164. (amended) The method of claim ~~1, 8, 16, 26, 37, 46, 52, 56, 65, 76, 82, 88, 94, 101, 109, 118, 124, [130,] 131, 138, 141, 142, 143, 148, 153 or 159~~ wherein at least one step is performed using the Internet.

165. (amended) The method of claim ~~1, 8, 16, 26, 37, 46, 52, 56, 65, 76, 82, 88, 94, 101, 109, 118, 124, [130,] 131, 138, 141, 142, 143, 148, 153 or 159~~ wherein at least one step is completed in near real time.

166. (amended) The method of claim 1, 8, 16, 26, 37, 46, 52, ~~56~~, 65, 76, 82, 88, 94, 101, 109, 118, 124, [130,] 131, 138, ^{or} ~~141~~, 142, 143, ~~148, 153 or 159~~ wherein at least one step is performed using a database replication feature [^] (of a database management system.

167. (amended) An offer matching system comprising:

(a) means for receiving [[1104]] from a first participant a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) means for associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) means responsive to the first description's not disclosing the first identifier, for sending [[1106]] the first identifier [[1153]] to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

(d) means for receiving [[1202]] from a second participant a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) means for executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) means for receiving [[1302]] from a first disclosee a first request [[1351]] for information, the first request includes the first identifier, wherein

the first disclosee is not the same as the first participant and

the first disclosee possesses information which discloses that a first related person satisfies a first condition, wherein the first condition is selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer[.] ;

(g) means responsive to the first request, and without the offer matching system's determining that the first request is from a person entitled to receive confidential information concerning the first offer, for sending [[1304]] to the first disclosee a first data item [[1352]], wherein:

the first data item concerns the first offer, and

before receiving the first data item, the first disclosee does not possess information which discloses that the first data item concerns the first offer,

whereby the first disclosee, which already possesses information which discloses that the first related person satisfies the first condition, gains possession of information which discloses that the first data item concerns the first offer.

168. (amended) An offer matching system comprising:

(a) means for communicating [[1103, 1104]] from a first participant to the offer matching system a first description [[1152]] of a first offer;

(b) means for associating [[1105]] the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;

(c) means responsive to the first description's not disclosing the first identifier, for then communicating [[1106, 1107]] the first identifier [[1153]] from the offer matching system to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;

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(d) means for communicating [[1201, 1202]] from a second participant to the offer matching system a description [[1251]] of a second offer;

(e) means for executing [[1203]] the first offer at least in part against the second offer in accordance with a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system;

(f) means responsive to a first disclosee's not already possessing information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer and a first related person satisfying a first condition selected from the group consisting of:

the first offer is for the benefit of the first related person,

the first offer is for the account of the first related person,

the first related person made an investment decision to make the first offer,

the first related person has a financial interest in the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the first offer,

the first related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the first offer,

the first related person is acting as an agent with respect to the first offer, and

the first related person is acting as a principal with respect to the first offer,

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[then, after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer,] for communicating [[1108, 1109]] the first identifier [[1154]] from the first participant to the first disclosee, after the first participant possesses information which discloses that the first identifier is associated with the first offer, in a manner which discloses to the first disclosee that the first related person satisfies the first condition;

(g) means for attempting to avoid public disclosure of information that is reasonably likely to disclose that the first related person satisfies the first condition; and

(h) means for publishing [[1605]] a first data packet [[1652]] that comprises the first identifier and a first data item, wherein

the first data item concerns the first offer, and

the first data packet is published in a manner that permits the first disclosee to receive it regardless of whether the first disclosee has a right to receive confidential information concerning the first offer;

(i) means for publishing [[1815]] a first collection of information [[1852]], wherein the first collection comprises information which discloses that a second data item concerns a third

offer that satisfies a second condition, the second condition comprising a requirement selected from the group consisting of:

that the first offer executed at least in part against the third offer,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item and a side,

that both the first offer and the third offer are for a single traded item, the first offer is for a first side and the third offer is not for the first side,

that at a time when the first offer was capable of execution, the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [third] fourth offer, wherein the [third] fourth offer is not the first offer, and

that at a first time when the first offer was capable of execution: the third offer executed in whole or in part against a [fourth] fifth offer, wherein the [fourth] fifth offer is not the first offer, and the first offer could have executed in whole or in part against the [fourth] fifth offer in accordance with the set of rules if the offer matching system had not possessed information concerning any other offers for a same side as the first offer,

wherein the first collection is published in a manner that permits the first disclosee to receive the first collection regardless of whether the first disclosee has a right to receive confidential information concerning the third offer;

(j) means for receiving [[1606]] the first data packet [[1652]] by the first disclosee;

(k) means for receiving [[1815]] the first collection [[1852]] by the first disclosee;